

# California GARDEN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1997

Volume 88 No. 1

\$1.50



# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

JAN. 4-5

**SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY** Rose Pruning. Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden, Park Blvd., Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 9AM to noon. Hands-on demonstration. Bring gloves and pruner. Public Invited.

JAN. 18-19

**SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY** Mini Show & Plant Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 11AM-4:30PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

JAN. 25-26

**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION** Camellia Show & Sale. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. 1-5PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. 310/544-1948. \$5.

JAN. 26

**DESCANSO GARDENS** Rose Hybridizers Tom Carruth & Keith Zary winners of AARS 1997. Free AARS-winning rose bush. 1418 Descanso Dr. La Cañada-Flintridge. 1-3:30PM. Call 818/952-4401. Admission Fee.

FEB. 1

**CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF NORTH COUNTY** Annual Orchid Auction. Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St. Carlsbad. Sat. Noon-4PM. Call 746-5518. Free.

FEB. 1-2

**SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY** 50th Annual Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 1-4PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

FEB. 12

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Bus Tour. Burkhardt Nursery, Pasadena. Lots of unusual plants. Lunch at 1905 Beaux Arts style mansion. 232-5762. \$39 & \$42 Non-member. See page 30 for more information.

FEB. 18

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Quarterly Dinner Meeting & Program. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Tom Ham of CALTRANS Landscaping. RSVP by 14th. 232-5762. \$5.

FEB. 22

**THE ARBORETUM OF L A COUNTY** Rare Orchid & Tropicals Sale. 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. 9AM-3PM. 818/447-8207. Fee.

FEB. 22-23

**OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA** Flower Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. Free.

EVERY SATURDAY - JANUARY

**FULLERTON ARBORETUM** Gardening

Classes. Jan. 4: Deciduous Fruit Trees; Jan. 11: Camellias & Azaleas; Jan. 18: Roses, 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton. 714/773-3404. \$5.

## MONTHLY - FIRST MONDAY

**SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Speakers. Wagering Facility, Del Mar Racetrack. Mon. 6:30-9PM. Call 630-7307.

## ONGOING EVENTS

**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. 9AM-5PM. 436-4032.

**BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE** Walks. Poway. Sat & Sun 9AM. 486-7238.

## BALBOA PARK: ONGOING PROGRAMS

**DAILY SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN** Docent Tours. 232-2780. Fee.

**SAT. OFFSHOOT TOURS** 1Hr. Meet Botanical Lath House. 10AM. 235-1121. Free.

**TUES. INTERPRETIVE WALKS** Ranger guided. Meet Visitors Center. 10AM. 235-1211. Free.

## JAN 6 - TO MAY 5, 1997

**PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM** Floral Design Programs. 1st. Monday 1-3PM. The Courtyard 16935 West Bernardo Dr. Fee.

Deadline for submission to

**HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for Mar./Apr. issue is Jan. 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.



Author Betty Newton with *Meconopsis*, blue Himalayan poppy, blooming in June in Vancouver BC.



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for 87 Years

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Manuscripts are invited. Deadlines are the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. All manuscripts and illustrations will be handled carefully, but we cannot assume responsibility for their safety. Submissions must be double spaced and/or on a computer disk from IBM or compatible. Enclose self-addressed postpaid envelope if you expect them to be returned to you. *Hortus Third* is the authority for all botanical names used in the magazine. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

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NUMBER 1

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COVER photograph of *Agave americana* by Betty Newton (see page 9)

*Erratum:* In volume 87, issues 4 and 5 (July-August and September-October 1996), the cover artist was called Alfred D. Hottes; the correct name is Alfred C. Hottes.

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# ORCHIDS ÔLÉ!

THE 51ST ANNUAL  
ORCHID SHOW & PLANT SALE  
March 14-16, 1997



Lose yourself in the exotic and unusual world of orchids at the oldest and most prestigious Orchid Show and Plant Sale in San Diego. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to travel through nature's most spectacular display of beauty and wonder.

#### Show Schedule

Friday, March 14 6pm-10pm

Saturday, March 15 9am-6pm

Sunday, March 16 9am-4pm

#### Admission

\$4.00 / Advance

\$5.00 / Door

Children under 12 / FREE

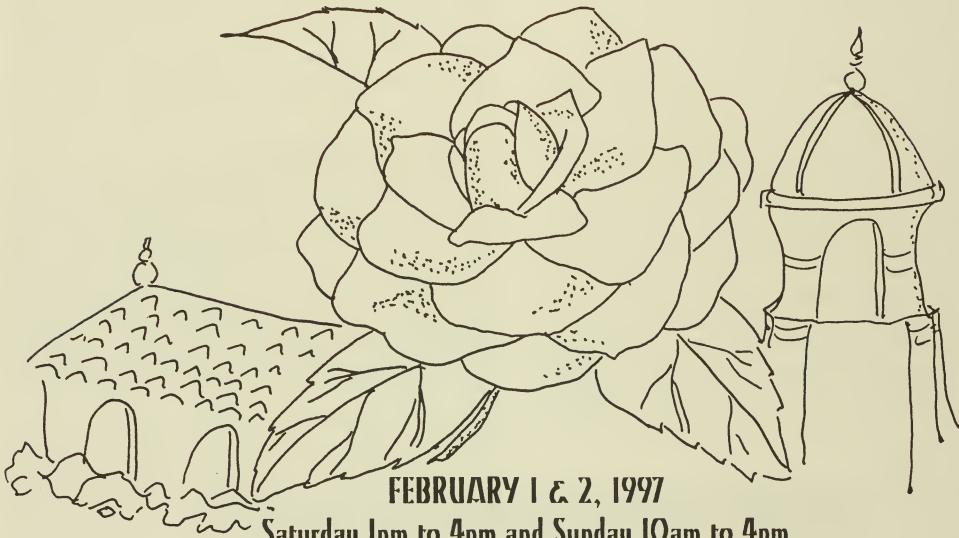
#### Scottish Rite Memorial Center

1895 Camino del Rio South ♣ San Diego, CA 92108

For more information, contact Bob Swanson, 1997 show chairman at (619) 465-2297.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY  
PRESENTS  
THE  
50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMELLIA  
SHOW



FEBRUARY 1 & 2, 1997

Saturday 1pm to 4pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm

FREE ADMISSION

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO COME TO HISTORIC BALBOA PARK  
AND SEE THE VARIETY OF CAMELLIA BLOOMS GROWN IN  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM #101  
BALBOA PARK  
SAN DIEGO, CALIF

# Gleanings . . .

## GARDEN TALK SHOW . . .

So many called to ask the time and station of The West Coast Garden Line Radio Talk Show hosted by Bruce Asakawa, we are giving it. In San Diego, he is on KSDO (1130) from 8:00 to 10:00 AM Saturday & Sunday. Bruce was born and raised in San Diego and he really knows our area. He was San Diego Floral's October meeting speaker—great program!

## WORLD'S BIGGEST FLOWER . . .

During the summer there was news about the largest flower in the world blooming in a glasshouse in Kew Gardens, London. The flower was the titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*), a native of the Sumatran rain forest. The huge flower was 10 feet tall but only lasted in full bloom for two days. The flower began to open on 16 July 1996 and continued to grow until it finally opened on July 31st. Everyone said it smelled terrible — a mixture of rotting fish and burnt sugar. In the wild this nauseous odor attracts carrion insects, the pollinating agent. This plant last bloomed in 1963. In 1937 at the New York Botanical Garden a flower bloomed from a 131½ pound corm imported from Sumatra. The bloom was 4 feet across and 8½ feet tall. Unfortunately, it died after blooming.

## TRASH . . .

It is estimated that the average American family of four tosses out about 123 pound of trash per week. Makes one understand why trash is such a problem and why recycling everything we can is important. About 39% of our trash is paper and it is estimated that we recycle about 35% of it. Glass makes up 6% of our trash but we only recycle 23%. We are recycling 53% of our steel cans and 64% of the aluminum cans. Yard waste — grass, leaves, clippings — make up 15% of our trash, but we are only recycling (composting) 23%. According to these 1990 figures only 5% of trash plastic is being recycled and plastic makes up 9% of our total trash. We do have many active programs for recycling in our area, but much of the country is still just digging it in and burning. Recycling is something we all must give more effort and thought.

## BOUGAINVILLEA . . .

All over San Diego huge bougainvillea vines enthusiastically climb up trellises, fences, and arbors and climb down embankments. Usually it is the familiar 'San

Diego Red' that seems to survive regardless of treatment. Lately bougainvillea have become popular as a container plant. They are grown on a small trellis, in a hanging basket, and even trimmed to small lollipop-shaped trees. These are smaller plants especially developed to do well in containers. Several are bushy types. Usually bougainvillea grown in the open ground do not need fertilizer, but container grown ones need a light fertilizing with a liquid type once a month. Ask at your local nursery for the type that does best in your area. New, small varieties readily available are: 'Rosenka' - multicolor, 'Silhouette' - pink, and 'Ms. Alice' - white.

## PLANT AIR CLEANERS . . .

It's winter, windows are being closed, and San Diegans are becoming aware of odors and itching eyes and nose. This could be due to the common carcinogenic chemicals found in our house. Formaldehyde, benzene and trichloroethylene (TCE) are emitted from furniture, carpeting, household cleaners, plastics, paints, dry-cleaned clothes, adhesives, etc. Over twenty houseplants have been identified as good air purifiers. Old standbys are: Boston fern, ivy, dracaenas, peace lily, palms, and potted mums.

## VIDEO & CD-ROM . . .

For year-end holiday shoppers there were many garden-plant oriented videos available. Most of them were in the coffee-table variety — pretty but with small actual gardening value. The areas pictured showed very little of the major garden features for which the gardens were noteworthy. There were several scientific ones showing plants growing and flowers opening in slow motion, another had enlarged pictures of microscopic plants, and others were for plant identification. These would be very useful in a classroom situation.

There are several gardening CD-ROMs for "whistle blowing-bell ringing" PCs. Most are for general gardening but some information was not applicable for our Mediterranean climate and our soil and water conditions. One had several incorrect gardening techniques and coined words to explain things. For example: a bulb plant, such as the daffodil, could become "perennialized" in the open ground when it formed new bulbs and did not have to be lifted each year and replanted. Often the information given was not complete enough for a beginning gardener. It was interesting to browse the CD-ROMs, but, at this time, it would be easier and faster to use a good gardening book.

# CALIFORNIA FREEWAYS — Call Me Beautiful!

by MARIANNE TRUBY

WEAVING IN AND OUT of our great California highway system, I revel in the variety of plant life that has been used to enhance the slopes and offramps. Years ago when I first came to San Diego, the scenic route through Balboa Park (the Cabrillo Freeway) was much admired and promoted. Today it is overused and to be avoided much of the time.

Currently, California freeway plantings are an outstanding example of what can be achieved by using the expertise of those who plan them. We are indebted to CALTRANS and their various programs to beautify these areas. When you come across one of the earlier plantings, where the boring ice plants of the past continue to exist, you become aware of the amazing variety of growing plants now being used to create these beautiful vistas. Newer, colorful succulents fill steep banks with slopes of glorious color. Early in the morning during the fall, after an evening fog or low mist, to observe the wonderful tapestry created by these plants of various heights and shades of greens is truly awesome.

What a test to attempt to identify this collection of shrubs and trees! Some newly formed offramps have *Callistemon* (bottle-brush), and if you have ever had these growing in your yard you will LOVE to see them in these areas where cleanup is unnecessary. The sight of a beautiful *Bauhinia blakeana* (orchid tree) in bloom or the amazing shade of lavender of the *Jacaranda acutifolia* spotted throughout the freeways as well as on our city streets will add much pleasure to freeway travel. Where appropriate, there have been planted various varieties of low-maintenance succulents and aloes that require little-or-no care and add to the overall plan without restricting the commuters.

The list goes on and on, and I am particularly pleased with the oleander. Used as a divider on the

center strip of many of our California freeways, it is a true wonder. It is not particular about soil and tolerates poor drainage. The leaves are dark green, leathery and glossy, and the plants do best in strong light and heat. One of the basic shrubs for desert and hot interior valleys, it is the PERFECT plant for our area. When it gets too big, just cut it down and in a short time it will be covered again with that hard green foliage and clusters of flowers. The flowers come in several colors, some are single and some are double, but to me those miles of green shrubs with white flowers are the best! A member of the periwinkle family and from Asia Minor, the shrubs can grow up to twenty feet. The shrub is poisonous, even insects do not bother it, and it blooms continuously. It has been adopted by parking lots of supermarkets, sometimes grown as a small tree or as a screen, windbreak, or border along a roadway.

Included in these plantings, the Australian eucalyptus, a widely planted non-native and tall growing, forms a perfect backdrop. Let us not forget the California pepper, (*Schinus molle*), with its fine-textured foliage, cream-colored flowers and red fruit. Originally from South America and brought to California by early travelers, this tree thrives in our arid area. The *Myoporum laetum*, another evergreen that grows 6 to 10 feet high and is frequently used to cover (hide) fencing and sides of buildings is effective in discouraging graffiti artists.

For those of you who have arrived in Southern

California from areas of maples, pine trees, and oak trees, this view of our freeways may take a little getting used to, but ultimately I believe you will learn to enjoy this ever-changing sight. □

Marianne Truby is an ARS consulting rosarian and judge, past president of the San Diego Rose Society, past director of the Pacific Southwest District, and president of S.D. Floral Association.



*Callistemon*, photo courtesy of California Association of Nurserymen

# A GLIMPSE OF PARADISE

Exotic Trees and Flowers of Southern California

by BETTY NEWTON

PALMS SILHOUETTED AGAINST the ocean give a distinctive air to Southern California. Plants from subtropical climates make us look exotic.

Exotic means intriguing and it can mean imported. Specimens planted decades ago at certain hotels and campuses here root us to our past. We take these old plants for granted (like the dragon tree [*Dracena draco*], bird of paradise and star pine) and greet new discoveries (like *Ruellia macrantha*) with enthusiasm.

And it is no wonder we have so much in bloom in winter; our plants are often from the other side of the world—from the southern hemisphere where spring comes in September-October. Common gazanias and lantana are plants that may be grown only in conservatories in the northeast and midwest.

We do grow plants from climate zones other than the moist and balmy subtropics. We grow things from dry parts of the subtropics, the Mediterranean climate plants, and natives. But we despair of ever meeting the needs for cold of many plants from Temperate Zone Climates. We're thankful for plants shared with that climate like pyracantha and foxglove. However, it often turns out such plants came originally from drier southern Europe or North Africa. Plants needing real cold—*Kalmia* (mountain laurel) and the sassafras tree, for instance—are beyond us. In contrast, the heat and humidity that Tropic Zone plants require is achieved here only in terrariums, greenhouses, or large controlled environments like that of the palm collector in Vista.

The Spanish who came here in the late 1700s brought olive, loquat, and pomegranate trees, in addition to *Rosa damascena* cuttings. Yankee interlopers from the East brought plant divisions and seeds. Later they ordered from nurseries back East and discovered that many of their old favorites grew more luxuriantly here than they had back home.

Then the newcomers began to experiment. It seems our forefathers in Southern California tried every plant that every sea captain brought to port. And so now we have a landscape made of plants from South Africa, Australia, Central and South America, and Asia as well as southern and southeast Europe.

Early nurserywoman Kate Sessions did her best to emphasize and test dry-climate plants. She expressed her disgust

when early banker Joseph W. Sefton, Jr., had a gathering to show off his new water-using, jungle-climate camellias. "I might as well have had the order myself!" she exclaimed.

Where most of the population lives here, along the coast and for several miles inland, the weather seldom goes below freezing and rarely over 90 degrees. This mild weather is created not just by our latitude but by the Pacific Ocean, which moderates both cold and hot temperatures.

We have, however, precious little rain and import the water that subtropical plants need from 400 miles away and more. It is expensive—over \$700 an acre-foot on Otay Mesa.

Naturally it's the subtropicals that newcomers to Southern California admire most. They often insist on palms, orange trees, fuchsias, and hibiscus in their landscaping. Longtime residents may be pursuing other visions influenced by gardens of the Orient or idealized woodlands—even dry area gardens.

Recognizing the plants on this list sharpens your appreciation of this Southern California paradise. They are our signature plants creating a look, still considered exotic, but shared now by Mediterranean climates throughout the world.



Lantana, frost susceptible

Betty Newton teaches gardening classes at Grossmont Adult School and writes for the Sunday San Diego Union-Tribune. Photographs by the author.

## SOME EXOTIC TREES AND FLOWERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Protea 'Pink Mink'



Mandevilla

### From South Africa:

Bird of Paradise (Strelitzia)  
Ice Plants  
Natal Plum (Carissa)  
Gazania  
Ivy Geranium (Pelargonium peltatum)  
Aloes  
Proteas

### From Australia:

Bottlebrush (Callistemon)  
Bottle Tree (Brachychiton)  
Weeping Acacia (Acacia pendula)  
Moreton Bay Fig (Ficus)  
Sugar and Lemon Scented Gums (Eucalyptus)  
Australian Tea Tree (Leptospermum)

### From Mexico:

Jacaranda Tree  
Fuchsia  
Poinsettia  
Blood Red Trumpet Vine (Distictus)  
Orchid Tree (Bauhinia)  
Avocado

### From Tropical America:

Bougainvillea Vine  
Maidenhair Fern (Adiantum)  
Lantana  
Mandevilla Vine  
Floss Silk Tree (Chorisia)  
Agave

### From Asia:

Hibiscus  
Gardenia  
Cymbidium Orchid

From Mediterranean Regions:  
Dragon Tree  
Olive Tree (Olea)  
Canary Island Date

From Central Africa:  
Fern Pine (Podocarpus)

From Peru:  
California Pepper Tree

### Palms from all over the World:

Queen Palm, Argentina  
King Palm, Australia  
Mexican Fan Palm, Baja California

# SAN DIEGO STREET TREES IN 1909

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED how or why certain trees were selected for various parts of town and why whole blocks seemed to have the same tree or shrub planted in the parking strip? This is especially true in the older parts of San Diego. San Diego Floral Association was started by a few plant-knowledgeable San Diegans at the urging and with the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce because very few people could grow plants in this unique climate. (Most were familiar with acid soil, too.) That was in 1907. Members would give free seeds, cuttings, and advice at the Chamber of Commerce headquarters, but soon it became evident that information on paper was necessary and wanted. *California Garden* was started in 1909. In the first issue, a plea went out for suggestions on how to get homeowners to plant "the parking" and front yards of their homes with trees. Here is the article that started "it all."

By Barbara S. Jones

## THE TREE PLANTERS

Marion Robinson

Reprint: December 1909

An activity of great interest to all public-spirited citizens was commenced on Monday, Nov. 15th at the residence of Mrs. J. W. Sefton. It was the formation of a body of earnest women with the future beauty of San Diego at heart. They are to be known as "The Tree Planters." With such a name their purpose must be clear to all.

The work contemplated is great, but so is their courage and ability; and if they meet with the co-operation from the public that they deserve San Diego will look back with pride to the day of their organization.

The general idea is to beautify all the streets by planting trees or palms. One of the first questions to be decided is—Which do the people want? A canvas of the entire city is to be attempted to ascertain the feeling of the public in this respect.

There are few cities so fortunate in possessing all the natural advantages for Palm growing as our city. They are beautiful, varied and drought notwithstanding. They possess a potent charm for the Easterner. The Cocos Plumosus does not interfere with the view as do some of the lower growing varieties. There are many people who would prefer trees—the Pepper, Camphor, Pride of India (umbrella), Poplar, Magnolia, Rubber, and many other varieties make lordly avenues. There is a hybrid Sycamore-Elm being used very successfully for Street planting in Northern California, and anyone having passed under a walk of Ailanthus or Locust in bloom can never forget their beauty.

On streets where good views are obtained low-growing shrubs are suggested. Hibiscus, Oleander, Geraniums, Poinsettias, Pittosporum and Laurustinus all can be pruned and kept to the desired height.

The trees or palms would be planted so far apart that only one would come on an ordinary sized city lot, thus making the cost very small to each property owner. When it is decided what species of tree or palm the majority wish for on a street "The Tree Planters" will have them planted by contract, thus insuring uniformity of size and giving all a proper start, as well as lessening the cost yet more. All felt at the first meeting of this promising body that there was force being generated by the harmonious and earnest desire for unselfish action that would go far to awaken the public and still have enough left to help the contemplated trees grow. Mrs. J.W. Sefton, as general chairman, made an eloquent appeal to those present. "Let us work," said she, "for the future, and be large enough to look to the city of our children and grand-children. Let us be noted for Palms and flowering trees, not as at present for our brown and barren streets. Let us each one feel the responsibility and all work so that when strangers come we can show them, besides the beautiful view from Point Loma, well planted streets—Palms and blossoms. Could anything be more thrilling to an Easterner who has left his frost, ice and snow than to come here and see a street lined on either side with the glorious Poinsettias in full bloom?"

The ladies appointed by the Chamber of Commerce for the different districts are as follows:

Normal Heights, Mrs. D.C. Collier

Hill Crest, Mrs. W.W. Whitson

West of 5th, bet. University and Quince, Mrs. Frances Wueste, Mrs. Horace B. Day, Mrs. A.A. Polhamus

West of 5th bet. Quince and Ash, Mrs. Griffing Bancroft, Mrs. W.R. Maize, Mrs. Jessie Smith, Mrs. Jessie Burbeck

Midtown, Mrs. Ralph Granger, and Ladies of Civic Federation.

Kneale's Point and east to Pavilion, Mrs. Thos. Kneale.

Section around Johnson St., Miss Kate Sessions.

5th to 10th, D to Date, Mrs. J.W. Russel

10th to 20th, north of H, Mrs. Jarvis Doyle.

20th to 28th, north of H, Mrs. Clark McKee.

East of 28th, south to foot of Grant Hill, and Brooklyn Heights, Miss Alice Klauber.

Logan Heights and Lincoln Park, Mrs. E.E. Shafer.

Point Loma and Ocean Beach Boulevard, Mrs. Alfred D. Robinson. □

## STREET TREE PLANTING 1997

### SAN DIEGO

There will soon be a tree planting guide available for the City of San Diego. If you want any information about planting a tree in the parkway or in any public right-of-way, call 527-5486. Drew Potocki is the Urban Forester for the City of San Diego. Many people do not know that a No-fee Street Tree Permit is required to plant a tree (or remove one) from your yard in the 10 feet directly behind the curb. That property is for the city's use. Some trees are not allowed because they will interfere with passage of vehicles or pedestrians in the street or on the sidewalk. Others are not allowed because the roots will break and/or crack the pavement or are very invasive in plumbing and sewage lines. There is a street tree master plan that indicates the trees allowed in your neighborhood. Some neighborhoods have applied for special permission to allow only one variety of tree to be planted on their streets. (If you and your neighbors want to do this, call the above number and ask to talk to the Urban Forester.)

### NATIONAL CITY

If you wish to plant a tree in the parkway (parking strip) of your home in National City, you must contact the National City Street Tree Committee at 140 E. 12th Street, National City, CA 91950. There is a \$35.00 fee, but you are allowed to select a tree (your choice) from the approved list, and the city will plant it for you. This will be a large 15 gallon specimen of Brisbane box (*Tristania conferta*), carrot wood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*), fern pine (*Podocarpus gracilior*), New Zealand Christmas tree (*Metrosideros excelsus*), lemon bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*), or palm (*Cocos plumosa*). (Make the \$35.00 check out to National City Finance Department.)

### LA MESA

If you wish to plant a tree in the parkway (parking strip) in La Mesa, you must obtain an Encroachment Permit at the Engineering Department at 8130 Allison, La Mesa CA 91941. This permit costs \$60. Only trees on the approved tree list can be planted.

### EL CAJON

To plant a tree in El Cajon, you must get a Permit from the Public Works Department (441-1653). Next, you must sign a Tree Maintenance Agreement prepared by the city, acknowledging responsibility for the tree. The agreement must be signed and notarized. There are 24 trees on the approved list. Seven trees approved for parkways 6 feet wide, or under, are queen palm (*Syagrus romanzoffianum*, alternate name, *Cocos plumosa*), Guadalupe palm (*Brahea edulis*), windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*, alternate name, *Chamaerops excelsa*), lemon bottlebrush

(*Callistemon citrinus*), weeping bottlebrush (*C. viminalis*), crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), and white oleander (*Nerium*).

### CHULA VISTA

To plant a tree in Chula Vista, you must call Public Works (691-5027) and request the Planting Form. There is a wide variety of trees approved, but certain trees are designated for every area. For \$50 the city will plant, feed, and stake a 15 foot tree in your parkway (parking strip). The address is 707 F Street, Chula Vista CA 91910.

Some neighborhoods have taken advantage of the People For Trees program that funds tree planting through the federal government gas tax for county improvement. Call the City Councilman for your area for information on this program. Cynthia Drake is a project coordinator for San Diego People For Trees (234-tree). □

Barbara S. Jones majored in botany at SDSU and has gardened in San Diego for over fifty years.  
Drawings after Evelyn Maino.



Crape Myrtle



Windmill Palm



Queen Palm

# WHAT TO DO WITH POINSETTIAS AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

by Robert Horwitz

THE CROP OF POINSETTIAS this year is superb, and to think that most of them that have brightened up Christmas around the country came from right around here, mostly from the Ecke Farms. But, the question arises about what to do with the plant when Christmas is over. Read on and you will find out.

The poinsettia belongs to the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae) and is treated to conditions in the nursery growing houses that cause them to bloom during the holiday season. To prolong the life of the colorful bracts that surround the real flower, which is that insignificant little yellow thing in the middle of all the red color, you should place the plant near a bright-light window, with plenty of sun. Keep the soil moist, but not saturated and the color will last.

But, after Christmas when the color fades and the leaves start to fall off, it is time to reduce watering significantly and place the plant in a cool place until the new growing season starts in the spring. Cut the stems back severely, leaving only a few buds. When new growth starts, take the plant outside so that it can get plenty of sunshine. A little fertilizer wouldn't hurt at this time. If the plant gets too leggy, prune it back to the shape you want. In the fall, take the plant into an area where it will get about twelve to fourteen hours of darkness each day so that it will be forced into blooming again for the holidays.

If you decide that you would rather have the plant as an outdoor specimen, it can be planted in the ground in a suitable place so that it will get plenty of sun in the summer and lots of shade in the autumn. It is not particular about soils, and all that it asks is enough water. There are many of them in my neighborhood that put on their Christmas display in December as regular as clockwork. You might take some pruned canes and pot them so that a node or two is under the soil. To improve chances of its growing, apply rooting hormones before sticking the canes into the ground. If you do this in early summer, there probably will be sufficient growth so that in the fall you can give them the darkness treatment to get Christmas blooms to bring into the house and for gifts.

There are other colors of poinsettias, but the red ones are by far the most popular. A word of caution: when pruning, wear gloves and try not to get any of the sap on your hands, face, and particularly the eyes as it is somewhat caustic.□

*Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in Point Loma.*



The author in 1971 with 'Pink Parfait' rose, introduced in 1960.

## THE GOLDEN YEARS OF ROSES by LORNAINE A. SCHMIDT

IF I HAD A CHOICE of selecting the "Golden Years," I would say it was the time when I was physically active and immensely interested in floral hobbies. My favorite hobby began in 1950 growing; showing, and judging roses. Roses that were hybridized in the fifties and sixties were

"jewels" and exquisitely beautiful. Perhaps, one has to look back to appreciate what one has known and experienced. I have had the pleasure and privilege of judging with the noted hybridizer, Herbert Swin (1906-1989). I would like to share with you a list of some roses that were so outstanding.

Angel Face 1968	Matterhorn 1965
Angel Wings 1958	Mister Lincoln 1964
Bewitched 1967	Mount Shasta 1963
Charlotte Armstrong 1940	Orangeade 1959
Columbus Queen 1962	Pascali 1968
Duet 1960	Peace 1945
Eiffel Tower 1963	Pink Parfait 1960
El Capitan 1959	Queen Elizabeth 1954
Garden Party 1959	Sea Pearl 1964
Granada 1963	Summer Sunshine 1962

I am sure other senior members would love to add to this list. With some research, new members should be able to locate some of the above. Patents would have expired and plants probably would not be too expensive.

Years ago we had freestanding trophy tables. Each rose and award could be clearly seen and appreciated. The trophies were silver and engraved. Time has brought many changes. Those were wonderful years and memories. Our trophy cabinet is proof of that.

When I was an assistant Girl Scout leader, our troop used to sing: "Make new friends but keep the old, One is silver and the other gold." Perhaps, this should apply to roses, too.

I am grateful for the lovely times I have experienced and for the memories.□

*Lorraine A. Schmidt is a life member of the San Diego Rose Soc. and a judge emeritus of the American Rose Soc.*

# MOURNING CLOAKS, ROTTEN FRUIT, SAP, NECTAR, AND MUD: THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR SOME TASTES<sup>©</sup>

by PAT PAWLOWSKI

THEY WERE LAZILY FLOATING, up, down, up again, like leaves caught in the wind. Instead of leaves, though, they were mourning cloak butterflies (*Nymphalis antiopa*). It was a scene of amazing beauty, as dozens of the butterflies drifted up into the treetops and down to the woodland floor, perhaps searching for overripe fruits from which they could siphon the fermenting juices.

The mourning cloak is a largish, dark brown butterfly, its wings edged with blue dots and a bright yellow band. One of the things that makes this species unique is that it overwinters as an adult. This means that, if the outside temperature becomes warm enough, you may be lucky enough to see a mourning cloak flying about on a warm sunny San Diego winter day.

The area where I saw the dozens of mourning cloaks was a riparian habitat, ripe with moisture-loving plants like willows and cottonwoods. And, indeed, it is only on the following plant species that adult female mourning cloaks will lay their eggs: willow, (*Salix*); cottonwood and aspen, (*Populus*); Chinese elms, (*Ulmus*). Therefore, find a willow and you might find a mourning cloak or two, or three, or four hundred. It all depends.

After a week, more or less, the mourning cloak eggs hatch into caterpillars, also known as larvae. The larvae eat and eat and eat until they resemble—with their purplish-black coats, intensive white spots and spiky protuberances—certain rock stars.

After each larva eats its fill of willow or cottonwood, aspen or elm, it forms a chrysalis. The chrysalis looks almost exactly like a brown, dried up old leaf. In a week or two, a brand-new, gorgeous butterfly emerges.

One of the curious traits that mourning cloaks exhibit is territoriality. This means that males perch on high objects and watch out for intruders like other male butterflies. Feisty mourning cloaks have even been known to chase birds away from their turf.

To attract this interesting, easy-to-look-at butterfly species, you might like to include one of its larval-food plants in your garden. However, be warned: willows, cottonwoods, aspens and elms all have greedy roots, and so may wreak havoc with water lines, sewer lines, and septic systems.

There are several ways around this problem. You can forget including food for the larval stage, and concentrate on providing food (or should I say drink?) for the adult stage of the butterfly. More about this later.

You can grow species of the smaller, more sedate



type of willow: for example, you might try the arroyo willow, a small, graceful tree that is easy to grow; all it needs is a good supply of water, just like some of your other garden plants. Just to be on the safe side, however, you might like to keep it in a large pot instead of putting it in the ground. Willows are easy to propagate, too. Just cut a branch, stick it in a pot with moist soil, and it should root.

Still, if you want to remain rootless, just concentrate on plants and concoctions that provide sustenance to the adult mourning cloak. Try to provide the following smorgasbord of mourning cloak delights: (1) spoiled fruit; (2) tree sap; (3) mud; and (4) flower nectar.

## SPOILED FRUIT

Place old and forgotten fruit such as bananas, pears, watermelon (the squishier and smellier the better) on a dish. You can place the dish in a small hanging birdbath (no water in the bath, of course). Hang the birdbath from a hook on which you have smeared vaseline (this whole affair is getting pretty messy, isn't it?). The vaseline will keep away the 5,000,001 ants the fruit is sure to attract. Since ants don't wear galoshes that often, they will not be able to cross the sticky vaseline, and the fruit will be kept safe for the butterflies.

## TREE SAP

If you happen to possess a tree from which sap is flowing, lucky you. Tree sap is one of the mourning cloak's favorite foods. If you don't possess a sappy tree, you might try suspending a sponge, lightly covered with maple syrup (a substitute for sap) from a tree. Then open a can of beer. Gently pour several ounces of beer into the sponge. Drink the rest. Add more beer later if you feel like it. (And remember vaseline to discourage the 5,000,001 ants).

## MUD

Mourning cloaks like to siphon up needed salts from mud puddles, so if you have a small sunny area where

things don't seem to grow (and don't we all?), sink a plastic bucket or other container into the dirt and keep the area moist.

#### NECTAR PLANTS

**Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia*):** Perhaps numero uno for nectar. Recently a mourning cloak was so besotted with a butterfly bush that I was able to touch its wings as it siphoned up the sweet nectar from the flowers.

**Milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*):** Also loved by monarch butterflies, that's reason enough to include this plant in the garden. The Monarch Program (944-7113) sells several varieties of milkweed, all of which are easy to grow.

**Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*):** Perennial, pushy by nature, but easy to control. Called "stinky feet plant" by some persons, flower scent does resemble that of unwashed feet or old sneakers. However, smell is not noticeable unless you get very close and inhale. So, don't inhale.

**Shasta Daisy (*Chrysanthemum maximum*):** Easy-to-grow perennial, excellent flowers for cutting too. What more could you want? (Remember not to cut all the flowers off; then the butterflies would be out of luck, not to mention nectar.)

**Zinnia - Colorful annual.** Don't worry about planting these right now. Relax. Zinnias are definitely a warm-weather plant, so wait until spring.

Meanwhile, better check out that mixture of maple syrup and beer. □

*Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer and wildlife garden designer. (see page 20)*



Mourning Cloak butterfly feeding on lantana,  
photo by Bill Howell

## GROWING VEGETABLES IN DULZURA

by EDD GUISHARD

IT ALL STARTED ABOUT ten years ago, when I moved to Dulzura. I had always grown a few vegetables, but here I had a garden space of approximately 3,000 square feet of never-before planted solid clay. A gardener friend suggested I make and sell clay pots and buy my veggies at the market, but, as the saying goes, ignorance is frustration (is that how it goes?).

I started out with a small Ward's front-line tiller. After being thrown over the handlebars a few dozen times, I succumbed to the TroyBuilt tiller advertisement — the one with the pretty lady tilling with one manicured hand. Well, she is either tilling in pure peat or has muscles that don't show in the photo.

Anyway, after buying straw, mulching with newspapers, and scrounging all the horse manure from my neighbors that they would give me, plus all the oak leaves I dared rob from my own property, I was able to grow corn and tomatoes and a few green beans. I now had a little softer clay and a bumper crop of bindweed (also called wild morning glory), a plant that I at first thought was pretty, but soon learned it was a most despicable @#\$%\*! things on earth.

And now what? Raised Beds! "This little gardener went to the redwood store, jiggity jig. This little gardener came home, jiggity jog, crying 'expensive! expensive!' all the way home." But, now we're going to have a no-work garden. I leveled the ground and built boxes of 2" x 12" redwood, 4 feet wide and 12 feet long. I used metal straps on the corners, like they use in construction to hold your house together, and put redwood 4" x 4"s, two on each side about one foot down and level with the tip of the box, to keep the sides from buckling out. Now we're ready to garden "agin." I figured that the first year my green beans cost about \$25 each, but now that is all behind me, the credit cards are paid, my soil is good, and the bindweed is almost all gone.

I'm happy. I now have about 350 linear feet of four-foot-wide beds with three-feet-wide concrete paths between. I traded in my TroyBuilt on a Mighty Mac 5hp shredder and began shredding everything that didn't run away. I mixed all this wonderful junk with the clay and some sand from the creek bottom and now have the beginnings of respectable soil.

I start many of my seeds in flats and plant them out when they are about two to three inches tall. The root plants, such as beets—'Detroit Dark Red', carrots—'Danvers Half Long', parsnips, leeks, rutabagas (from my former life in Minnesota), radishes—'Scarlet Globe', and 'White Icicle' white radishes, are all sown directly into the

Inland Dulzura's elevation is about 1,500 feet. There are long, warm summers, about ten degrees warmer than San Diego and very nippy winters. Snow is rare, but frost in the high 20s is not uncommon. The author lives in a valley, beside a stream, therefore all the cold air drains down the mountain, creating a variety of microclimates.

soil and covered with a thin layer of mulch to keep the soil, still too heavy on the clay side, from crusting over.

I have had reasonable success using old shade cloth laid directly on the ground to keep the soil from drying out, so my little carrots can push their way up. I also think the black shade cloth helps to absorb winter sun and warm the soil a bit. Using this method, I need to check regularly so the seedlings don't grow into the cloth and I don't pull everything up with it when I remove it.

From time to time, I dig out a box to about 20 to 24 inches and fill the bottom with old tomato vines, tree branches (no pepper or eucalyptus), and other things that don't do well in the shredder. I sprinkle it with gypsum and cover it all up with the soil I took out. It looks a bit like a new grave, but levels out in a season and gives some good depth to the beds. I didn't line the bottoms of my beds with mesh to keep out gophers. It is a wasted expense as far as I'm concerned; I've had little or no problem with gophers in my garden.

Because we also have a bed and breakfast inn (Brookside Farm), which keeps us very busy, I don't have much time to record my plantings the way I would like to. I start my summer garden on St. Patrick's Day, or at least try for the week before or after.

I prefer yellow corn over white; 'Golden Bantam' is my first choice. This we start in flats. I like to use the ones you get now in the nursery — the 48-pack soft plastic. For a small garden, you could use six-pack containers. In these, I usually use "boughten" planter mix and put two or three kernels of corn in each little compartment. I used peat pots one year, but they are not very cost-effective, even buying them by the thousand. I use the above method for all my seedlings after they are planted. I put them to bed by covering them with squares of old bed sheets and water them with an old shower head attached to the end of a hose. The sheeting keeps the soil moist till the seeds come up, and prevents the plant mix from washing out if one is a little too vigorous with the shower.

I don't have a real green house, but a shed made from recycled sliding glass doors with a fiberglass roof.

I have used heating cables under the flats with less than moderate success. I buy my tomato, broccoli, cauliflower, and pepper plants because I don't care to have too many of one kind, and I can be sure to have plants ready when I want them. One packet of seeds will produce many seedlings, and perhaps selfishly, I'm past the point of growing seeds for the whole neighborhood.

There are several reasons I plant my seeds in flats: first of all, I garden organically, and I find that when the plants are up a bit, they aren't as vulnerable to things that go crunch in the night. Also, the sprouts don't have to fight their way up through the crust of the soil. If it's not always moist, we sometimes don't water as regularly as needed, and I don't have to wonder what I planted where when the seed packet markers blow away, or disintegrate from watering.

I believe gardening should be a joy. We have too much unavoidable stress in our lives. I've had a few failures and some successes. The successes far outnumber the failures; and sometime failures help, not only our plants, but us to grow as well.

The following is a more-or-less planting schedule. The end of March is when I begin my spring planting program. We don't normally have frost after April first. Lettuce I grow all year except in the hottest months (July through September). I have one area of the garden covered with shade cloth that I use for my lettuce. The corn, squash, pumpkins, and cucumbers we start in flats. I have found Armenian cucumbers do best in our warm climate — they don't seem to have the bitter problem some cucumbers do. We plant corn about every two weeks so it is not all ready at once; in fact, we picked the last corn on November 4 this year and usually have our first corn for the Fourth of July. Okra, green beans, chili peppers, bell peppers, and eggplant also go into flats at this time. The carrots, beets, radishes, and onion sets for green onions are planted in the ground and we're ready for summer.

The fall planting begins in mid-September. Melting sugar peas and lettuce are started in flats; and in the ground are more carrots, beets, parsnips, cilantro, leeks, radishes, Italian or flat parsley, and onion sets. We plant our sugar peas at two-week intervals, also, so we are not overwhelmed at one time.

And that's about it for the story of my garden. □

*Edd Guishard moved from Minnesota to California in 1965. He has been in the hotel-restaurant-food service business all his adult life. He has owned the restaurants Blue Man in Lemon Grove and Mrs. Brady's Boarding House in Jamul. Twelve years ago he renovated a 1929 farmhouse and barn, which is now Brookside Farm Bed and Breakfast Inn. (see page 20)*



# Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

## AFRICAN VIOLETS

Mort Brigadier

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO SIMPLY** sit back and enjoy our African violets. **TO SEPARATE** and repot only if daughter plants are pushing the mother plant up and out of the pot.

**TO RETURN** those plants that you may have moved during the holidays.

**TO EXPERIMENT** by wick-watering some plants, bottom-watering others, and top-watering a third group.

**TO USE** a humidifier for your plants if you heat your home and awaken with a dry throat.

## BEGONIAS

American Begonia Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATCH** the watering program; slower growth requires less water. Do not allow to dry out or to become too wet.

**TO KEEP** plants clean; remove dead leaves and old foliage.

**TO START** cutting back cane-type and shrub-like types.

**TO ADD** more planting mix as needed to keep roots covered.

**TO SPRAY** for mildew.

**TO CONTROL** slugs, snails, mealybugs and loopers.

**TO START** in February tuberous types for summer blooms.

## BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO COLLECT** native stock in the California region. Plant the native trees in a larger container, not a bonsai pot.

**TO GRAFT** conifers, deciduous and evergreen trees.

**TO USE** lime-sulfur spray on deciduous trees.

**TO REDUCE** watering if a rainy period.

**TO PRUNE** fruit-bearing bonsai.

**TO WATCH** for aphids and other sucking insects; spray accordingly.

**TO REMEMBER NOT** to fertilize your trees. Allow plants to rest.

**TO START** in February to repot and transplant some varieties if weather is favorable.

## BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO KEEP** plants from damage by possible hail. Give them overhead protection such as placing them under trees, shade cloth or any other suitable material.

**TO PROTECT** plants from freezing temperatures; keep at least 2 inches above ground and cover with newspapers, sheets, etc. or bring them indoors.

**TO BE** careful when having plants indoors not to place them in front of a heating vent or in a drafty area.

**TO EMPTY** water from outdoor plants when it has rained consistently for two or three days. The weight of too much water can cause the leaves to spread apart, affecting the compact form.

**TO CUT** the frequency of watering during the cooler weather.

**TO NOT** fertilize until weather begins to warm.

## CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO REMEMBER** to rest winter dormant plants and keep the winter growers happy. Be careful with water and fertilizer as it gets cold—water in the early part of a sunny day so water will evaporate and fungi will not start easily. If it looks like rain, hold off on the water.

**TO PROTECT** outside plants from excessive rain if possible. If frost is likely, a little protection with a piece of paper or plastic can save a plant. Many tropical succulents will turn into a mass of soggy pulp if frozen. Remember to remove cover when conditions become more favorable.

**TO WATCH** new cuttings—they may not root quickly. If you can supply bottom heat you should not have much of a problem.

**TO KEEP** an eye on the seedlings. Fungi can be a problem at this time. Snails can make a great midnight snack of the seedlings—use some form of snail and slug control if needed.

**TO CLEAN** up old pots and pick up the last of the old leaves and other debris. You do not want to encourage mice and roof rats. Rodents can make a mess of your prize plants.

**TO NOTE** those plants you want to propagate the next growing season. Find out how to make new starts. Plan your spring display now.

## CAMELLIAS E. C. (Gene) Snooks

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO MAINTAIN** a regular watering schedule to supplement periods between rains. Plants must be kept moist but not wet.

**TO CHOOSE** and plant camellias while they are in bloom.

**TO KEEP** plants clean and pick up all blooms to prevent petal blight.

**TO FEED** with 2-10-10 fertilizer to get better and larger blooms.

**TO MAKE** grafts.

**TO TREAT** a few buds with gibberellic acid for larger flowers.

**TO TRANSPLANT** camellias; do not fertilize newly transplanted plants.

## DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO DIG** any tubers left in the ground. By early January the tops should be completely withered. Cut tops just above the ground.

**TO STORE** tubers without dividing. Store in vermiculite or sand, leaving on the soil that clings to them. Keep in a cool place.

**TO INSPECT** those tubers stored earlier for any sign of shriveling. If too dry, add a little moisture.

**TO START** in February to prepare the planting bed. Turn the soil, add humus and fumigate. Dig in humus and add equal parts of superphosphate and sulfate of potash. Turn over well. Add fertilizer two or three weeks before planting.

**TO SPROUT** some selected roots in February—these make good cuttings. Bottom heat may be applied to encourage sprouting.

## EPIPHYLLUMS

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO TAKE** advantage of beneficial rains. Collect the rainwater for future use. Store in opaque containers to prevent infestation of mosquito larvae and buildup of algae.

**TO PROTECT** plants from unexpected frost and strong wintry winds.

**TO BAIT** for snails and slugs.

**TO SPRAY** insecticides only if necessary. Do not use oil-base types. Use Orthene™, malathion, and Cygon™ available locally. Read and follow directions carefully.

**TO PRUNE** out dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches.

**TO FEED** mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring. Use liquid or slow-release granules. Another application may be necessary in about thirty days.

## FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO SPRAY** for aphids, especially maidenhair.

**TO WATER** gently, but do not soak. On cool nights soaking keeps their feet too cold. Do not rely on rain to find your hidden and covered plants—they may remain dry.

**TO TRIM** off old fronds in frost free areas.

**TO FERTILIZE** *Platyceriums* (stag horns) with bone meal, hoof & horn, or high nitrogen liquid.

**TO REMOVE** and remount *Platycerium* pups.

**TO PLANT** spores.

**TO CHECK** for spider mites on the underside of fronds. Mites are very small and may not be seen. Fronds will be silvery on top and start to turn brown. Spray with malathion or miticide.

**TO REPOT**, rebasket and divide ferns in frost free areas.

## FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO FINISH** pruning dormant deciduous trees and vines before leaf buds start to grow.

**TO PRUNE** evergreens just before or when new growth begins.

**TO SPRAY** dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil before buds begin to open to control overwintering insect pests.

**TO SPRAY** dormant peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) before buds begin to open to control leaf curl.

**TO PLANT** dormant bare-root trees and vines.

**TO PAINT** the trunks with whitewash to protect the bark from sunburn injury.

**TO PROVIDE** frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.

## FUCHSIAS

San Diego Fuchsia Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PRUNE** fuchsias severely if not done in the fall.

**TO CLEAN** up all leaves and other trash in baskets, pots and around ground plants.

**TO SPRAY** remaining foliage and ground to eradicate pests that may winter over.

**TO KEEP** plants moist but not wet.

**TO FEED** with a good fertilizer—fish (10-5-5) or a slow release type. These can be used for your year-round feeding.

**TO USE** insecticides or fungicides if there is a problem.

## GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)

Carol Roller

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATER** thoroughly when plants become

somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Relocate potted plants if there is prolonged rain.

**TO CONTINUE** feeding with a balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use at less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as needed to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

**TO CONTINUE** a pest control and disease prevention program. Use all products according to the manufacturers' instructions.

**TO PRUNE** any plants that have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on stems of regals, scented and similar types. Lanky plants, which were previously pruned, can be cut back to produce compact plants. Tip pinch plants that were pruned in the fall.

**TO MAKE** cuttings from the prunings. Shelter the cuttings from extreme weather. Placing them in a warm location will produce roots more rapidly.

**TO PROTECT** plants from freezing temperatures. Temporary coverings may be used.

**TO CONTINUE** to rotate plants to keep them well-shaped.

### NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PLANT** any of your natives not yet in the ground. You also can sow seed for native annuals and short-lived perennials at this time.

**TO CHECK** for *Ceanothus* stem gall moth larva, *Periplaca ceanthiella*. This is seen as thickening of the stem at the bud. Cut off affected buds. This may mean sacrificing a season's bloom. When you cut a swollen bud in two, you will see a tiny white worm with a black head.

**TO WEED** around the natives, particularly if we've had early rains.

**TO CHECK** toyons and oaks for mildew. Spray with a fungicide if absolutely necessary.

**TO SUPPLEMENT** rains with infrequent, but deep, watering. The natives are in their peak growing season at this time.

### IRIS

San Diego-Imperial County Iris Society

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO KEEP** old brown fans off the tall bearded. Good ground cleaning and spraying is helpful in pest control.

**TO MAKE** last plantings of bulbous irises for spring bloom.

**TO WATCH** watering, if rains are light. Rhizomes should not be allowed to dry out.

**TO START** a regular spraying program with copper oil to help control rust.

**TO START** in February to feed all irises with 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer. Follow directions carefully and do

not over fertilize.

### ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO CHECK** the moisture in pots of outdoor growing orchids including cymbidiums under cover. Protect them from cold rains and possible hail damage.

**TO CONTINUE** staking and grooming cymbidium flower spikes.

**TO USE** low-nitrogen fertilizer on cymbidiums. Do not feed if overcast.

**TO KEEP** nobile-type dendrobiums on the dry side. Watch for swelling of nodes for flower production, then move them to where it is warmer.

**TO REMEMBER** phals should be spiking and if moving the plant, to place it in the same general direction and area so that the flowers will bloom uniformly.

**TO WATER** early in the morning so crowns will be dry by nightfall.

**TO WATCH** closely for slugs and snails. These pests are coming out of hibernation and proliferating after the rains. Granules of 7.5% metaldehyde are an excellent bait and do not attract children or pets and do not leave a mess.

**TO BE AWARE** in outlying areas of any sudden temperature drops.

### ROSES

Marianne Truby

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO MAINTAIN** a complete calendar of procedures you follow in preparing/maintaining/feeding your roses. The work you do now is the basis of your success or failure in the rose garden.

**TO STRIP** any foliage remaining on your bushes and rake and clean up the beds. If you have given your bushes dormant spray in late December you will be wise to repeat it, weather permitting. This will do a lot to prevent overwintering spores of mildew and fungus.

**TO PLANT** new bushes in holes you prepared earlier, and watch closely to see that they stay green and do not dehydrate. If the weather is hot and dry, mound soil or mulch up the canes and keep damp with frequent sprinkling.

**TO PRUNE** established hybrid teas, mid-January through Valentines Day. Attend the demonstrations on pruning in Balboa Park Rose Garden.

**TO FEED** new plants with liquid fertilizer when bushes have a full set of leaves. These new bushes may be the first to bloom and after verifying you have the correct plant, break off the bloom leaving the new growth intact.

**TO APPLY** rose food to established bushes in early February. A cup of alfalfa meal or pellets worked into the drip basin will work well on established roses.

**TO MAINTAIN** moisture level at all times.  
**TO WATCH** for the first signs of aphids on the new growth and knock them off with a strong stream of water from the hose. They are lazy and will take a few days to climb back up.

**TO SPRAY** a fungicide weekly to prevent mildew.  
**TO FINGER PRUNE** when multiple buds break on the canes, leaving only the strongest to promote strong growth.

### VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension  
**NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO CONTINUE** planting cool-season vegetables that are not likely to be damaged by frost. Cool-season vegetables include broccoli, brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes (white), radish, rutabaga and turnip.

**TO USE** floating row cover fabric on seeded and transplanted crops to accelerate their growth.

**TO PLANT** dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus and rhubarb.

**TO PLANT** seeds of medium-day-length onions such as 'White Sweet Spanish,' 'Stockton Yellow Globe' and 'Italian Red' (short storage life) during February for bulbs in late summer.

**TO ORDER** seeds of warm season vegetables for planting in the spring.

### VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

**NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS**

**TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF:** broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce — Chinese forget-me-not (*Cynoglossum amabile*) cineraria, fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), garden stock (*Matthiola incana*), pansy, pink sand verbena, pot marigold (*Calendula*), snapdragon, and viola.

**TO PUT IN SEEDS OF:** beet, carrot, chard, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion (green and dry), parsnip, spinach, and turnip — baby blue eyes, candytuft, China asters, Chinese forget-me-not, coleus, delphinium, dianthus, forget-me-not, hollyhock, impatiens, lobelia, petunia, poppies, scabiosa, sweet alyssum, and Virginia stock (*Malcolmia maritima*).

# AVOCADO MITE

by MORT BRIGADIER

HELP IS ON THE WAY for avocado trees provided that we don't murder the rescue team with insecticides.

The culprit that has been stressing our avocado trees (by feeding on the underside of its leaves) is the perseae mite (*Oligonychus perseae*). The perseae mite's web-like nest is impervious to insecticides, jets of water, and horticultural soaps and oils.

The mite sucks the chlorophyll from the leaves, leaving many small brown spots as its memento. Fruit drop occurs when the loss of leaves allows sunlight to burn the newly exposed branches and fruit.

The good news is that two predatory mites are available that can penetrate the webbing and devour the perseae. One is the *Galendromus helveolus*, which overwinters the best; the other is the *G. annectens*, which reproduces the fastest. The bad news is that the public's reliance on insecticides can be detrimental to the health of the beneficials.

Both predatory beneficials devour the same amount of perseae and can now be purchased by home gardeners from the American Insectary in Escondido, by dialing 619/751-1436; or from Rincon-Vitova in Ventura, 805/643-5407. Enough predators to treat four avocado trees (or enough to share with a neighbor) can be purchased for under thirty dollars.

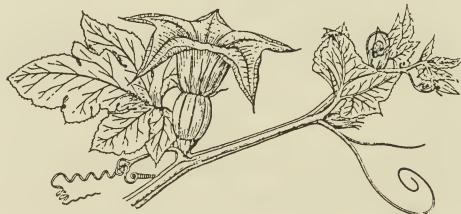
Both beneficial predators continue to be released in field trials at UC Davis, by commercial avocado growers, and throughout the county by an increasing number of homeowners.

"It is doubtful whether the perseae can ever be completely eliminated," according to Jim Davis of the American Insectary, "but it can be controlled if we give the beneficial predators half a chance." Dr. Gary Bender, UC Farm Advisor and avocado specialist, said, "Because there is so much food on one tree, predators seldom move from tree to tree, but the perseae moves freely on the wind from grove to grove and from backyard across fences to backyard."

There is no guarantee that a tree under control will not become reinfected; control is a neighborhood problem. If your tree is infected, show this article to your neighbors. There may be a problem if beneficials are released and neighbors are spraying insecticides.

Note: For this report, *California Garden* interviewed Dr. Gary Bender, UC Farm Advisor and Jim Davis, by telephone and mail. □

Mort Brigadier majored in horticulture at Cuyamaca College and has an MBA in management. He is a UCCE Master Gardener.



# COMMUNICATIONS . . .

## WE WELCOME LETTERS PERTAINING TO GARDENS!

(A note in response to our survey)

A few years ago, I moved from an area of very nice soil conditions (relatively speaking) to my present situation, which has caused me some difficulty and greater concern as to my lack of knowing what the options are for dealing with this site.

I am within L.A. city limits, within a block of what shows on Thomas Bros. map as the starting point of the original wash (stream bed) of Ballona Creek, which flows into Marina del Rey (Venice Blvd., just west of La Brea Ave.). The soil here is very dense and apparently compacted (although I think this might be partly due to small particle size), it is extremely difficult to dig at all, and increasingly so with depth. I have hesitated due to drainage (and labor!) concerns. I've even wondered if perhaps this might be more than I can handle alone. Situations such as this one I'm in are unusual I know, but I'd like to see occasional columns which address such situations.

Gary Wallen

November 21, 1996

To the Editor:

I very much enjoyed reading "Peanut Explorer" by Barbara Jones in the Nov-Dec issue. It brought back pleasant memories of a personal experience I had as a grammar school student back in Southwest Missouri. I, too, was interested in how peanuts grew and decided to plant a few in our vegetable garden. I had plants, blooms and a few peanuts, but despite the fact that they were planted in Sandy land (my father P.W. Sandy, owned our farm), the soil was not RSandy" enough for a satisfactory crop, so I never tried it again.

At about the same time, I also experimented with growing cotton. I obtained the seeds from our school teacher, who brought in some cotton balls when we were studying fabrics. As with the peanut planting, I still remember the excitement of seeing something grow that was different from what we were used to in that part of the country.

So thank you, Barbara Jones, for writing the article and thanks to *California Garden* for publishing it.

Sincerely, John M. Sandy

With apologies to the Late Show:

TEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR *CALIFORNIA GARDEN*

1. You can casually drop a hint that you're a "garden writer."

2. You can add it to your résumé and brag about it forever.

3. You can Xerox it and let your friends think that it was published in *Sunset*, or the *New Yorker*, or whatever...

4. You can send it to *Reader's Digest* and tell everyone that it was considered for publication.

5. You can mail it to your congressman and get it inserted into the Congressional Record.

6. You can read your article aloud on an airplane and impress your seat mate.

7. You can send the carefully corrected and expertly edited copy to another magazine for publication.

8. You might impress the mailman when he delivers your two complimentary copies.

9. You can send a copy to your high school English teacher, who said you would never amount to very much.

10. You can read it over the phone to your mother-in-law, who said you would never amount to very much. Substitute items:

11. Your children (or grandchildren) can take it to "show-and-tell."

12. You can join:

A literary society  
Garden Writers of America  
Spellers Anonymous

13. You can enclose it in your Holiday greeting cards.

Anonymous contributor

*Last issue, we said that we would be having "Now Is the Time" information on herbs. The person who was going to be writing it will not be able, unfortunately, to do so for a few months. Is there anyone who would care to help out for a few issues?*

*We request comments from readers who feel that we have provided incorrect information. The goal is to give readers the best gardening knowledge available.*

### ADDRESSES

(page 13)

Pat Pawlowski

### ANIMATED GARDENS

619/727-7789 — Wildlife Garden Design

(page 14)

### BROOKSIDE FARMS Bed and Breakfast Inn

1373 Marron Valley Road

Dulzura CA 91917, 619/468-3043

Also serves dinner to inn guests

(page 25)

Cynthia R. Drake

### LANDSCAPE DESIGNS AND TREE CONSULTING

9842 Hibert Street, #276

San Diego CA 92131, 619/566-8933

# SOME OLD FAVORITES

by MARIANNE D. TRUBY

GARDEN CLUB PROGRAMS PROVIDE members with the opportunity to become acquainted with new varieties of plants and also the chance to be reminded of old favorites you may have forgotten. A walk through my garden reminds me of old friends that have given me cuttings or divisions of their plants and have given me pleasure throughout the years. These are some that have given me much pleasure and ones I recommend to you.

*Stephanotis*, also known as Madagascar jasmine, is an evergreen vine with waxy, glossy green leaves. It is frequently used in bridal bouquets and the white, waxy flowers are very fragrant. When I learned this was growing in several homes in my area I haunted the local garden centers until I found a one gallon plant. I learned it needed to have its roots in shade, support of a trellis, and loved to be fed. It took a year to get established but this year it has been a delight and promised to remind me of the various homes and gardens I visited earlier. There is lack of agreement about being able to start this from cuttings.

*Plumerias* are beautiful plants (almost trees), and the clusters of large showy flowers are very fragrant. My cutting was given to me several years ago, and since I had never achieved much success with cuttings, I "stuck" it in the ground next to the garage with little knowledge or concern about its future. I have taken out several things that have been overcome by this six foot specimen of equal width — and still growing. It blooms for much of the year, has leathery pointed leaves, and seems quite pest free. Once again homes in my area (Chula Vista) show beautiful specimens of this plant.



Plumeria, drawing by Alfred C. Hottes.

*Brugmansia/Datura*, also called angel's trumpet, is taking our area by storm. This is a vigorous, easy care plant that blooms often during the year, survives with minimum water, and can be pruned to maintain desired size. It comes in various colors and has a fragrance that can become quite overpowering. Break off a piece of the stem and stand back! It is toxic. □

Photographs by the author.



Stephanotis



Brugmansia

# MINT AND A GOOD WAY TO EAT IT

by ROBERT HORWITZ

THE MINT FAMILY IS a large one. You can find peppermint, spearmint, pennyroyal, and apple mint all available to grow in your garden. This family is a hardy one and can be grown in our California area with abandon. In fact, it will grow so that if not controlled, its roots and stems will spread all over a growing area and almost become a pest. Consequently, it is recommended that if you grow the herb for your own use that you stick to pots. An 8- or 10-inch pot will provide enough mint for your own use as well as for your favorite neighbor.

Use good soil full of humus in the pot, the kind that wets easily and will retain moisture without drowning the plant. Start the plant from little plastic pots that can be obtained from your nursery. Match the soil line in the new pot with that of the small container. Water it and place in a good sunny spot to await new growth that will appear in about two weeks. Then, fertilize it gently throughout the growing season with a fairly high nitrogen fertilizer to promote leaf growth. After several months, the plant will send up flower shoots. Nip off these shoots to encourage more leaf production as that is what you flavor with and eat.

If you have lots of leaf production, dry the excess by placing the leaves on foil in an oven that has a gas pilot. They should be dry enough to store in a few days. If you are electric, put the leaves on foil in the sun for a few days, bringing them in when the sun sets.

Here is a recipe that I have adapted from my favorite Thai restaurant in Honolulu. It uses mint leaves so that mixed with the other flavors, you will eat more than you expected to and serve it often.

Serves four----

4 large wonton wrappers. Look in the deli section of the supermarket and get the ones that are about four or six inches square.

1/2 cup of sunflower sprouts

1/2 cup of julienened scallions

1/2 cup of julienened romaine lettuce

2 tablespoons of minced mint

1 clove of garlic, smashed into paste

2 tablespoons of soy sauce

2 tablespoons of oil plus 2 more for the frying pan

1/2 teaspoon grated fresh ginger

Heat the 2 tablespoons of oil in a frying pan. Fold the wonton wrappers in half and brown on each side, being careful not to brown the fold part. You want that flexible so that you can fill the wrapper with the other ingredients without breaking it. Mix the mint, soy, garlic, ginger, and the rest of the oil well. Then toss the remaining ingredients with that mixture. Fill the wonton wrappers, each one, with one-fourth of the ingredients. Eat shortly as you don't want the dressing to soak into the wonton and make it soft.

And, don't forget the refreshing taste of minted iced tea. Go easy on the mint so that it will not obscure the flavor of the tea.

*Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in Point Loma.*

## TASKS FOR WINTER

by BETTY NEWTON

HOW REFRESHING GARDENING IS in winter. You go outside for a little while when the temperature approaches the mid-sixties and sun is shining. You may only cut dead wood out of rose bushes and break finished bloom stalks off perennial flowers, but you get 1)a change of scene, 2)a little exercise, 3)a half hour of truly focused work and 4)make a contribution to the neighborhood. Gardening is a gift—a real spirit lifter.

If you are starting seeds now, pile leaves and manure under your seed trays for the bottom heat they provide as

they decompose. Or be up to date and hook up a heating cable under those trays. Most heating cables or heating pads are self-regulating and will stay close to seventy degrees. That will speed up seed germination or cutting rooting.

By March, it's a good time, too, to start zinnias from seed, though you may try earlier. They are an almost assured success if not buried but merely snuggled in on a roughed soil surface and kept damp.

Gardeners, look to the future by doing a little work now.□



# Book Reviews

## THE BOOK OF THE CONSERVATORY

Peter Marston

North Pomfret, Vt., Distr. by Trafalgar Square, Publ. by George Weidenfeld & Nicholson, Ltd., 1995, 176 pages, 9" x 11", softcover, 162 color photos, 66 b&w photos, 61 drawings, \$19.95.

Remember all those novels with clandestine lovers kissing in the conservatory? Now there is a great book about the history, art, and current status of conservatories titled, aptly enough, *The Book of the Conservatory* by Peter Marston, who lives in London and, through his company, Marston and Langinger, builds indoor garden spaces all over the world.

After three hundred years of existence in fashionable European, English, and American houses, conservatories went out of style when central heating and wall-to-wall carpeting arrived. Cold weather party guests (and hosts) preferred conviviality in warm, comfy interiors to romantic intrigue in scenic, but damp orangeries and other leafy chambers.

Now, however, although not usually on such grand scale, conservatories are everywhere and actually may be in any room of contemporary homes—kitchen, den, dining room, enclosed porch. I personally am aware of one master bathroom arrayed with paintings, stained glass, lace curtains, Chinese rugs, antique furniture including a floor lamp, and a quantity of large plants, some in pots too heavy for the resident senior citizens to move.

Marston points out that modern conservatories (excluding even such fancy WC's) are often associated with eating and drinking. They are really informal dining rooms from breakfast to cocktail time. In the most frigid of climates, such horticulturally accented pleasures are possible thanks to efficient insulation and doubly-glazed glass surfaces.

In any case, the glories of this volume are the wonderful color photos taken in and about conservatories new and historic, illustrating the great variety possible in decor, furnishings, architecture, sources of water, and above all, lovely plantings.

*Reviewed by Jane Field Alexander*

## CALIFORNIA GARDENS

Winifred Starr Dobyns

Santa Barbara, Allen A. Knoll, Publishers, 1996, 240 pages, 210 b&w plates, 8½" x 11¼", hardcover, \$55.

To lovers of gardens and those who recognize that our present level of appreciation arises in some part from our background awareness, the new reprint of *California Gardens* is a very special opportunity. This photo-documentary was first

published sixty-five years ago in 1931. Scarcely available from old book dealers, it's a classic pictorial essay on California's grand estate gardens and a period statement of the landscape architecture of that era.

Those not familiar with this book from special collection archives at first encounter will first gasp, as I did, "But, it is all pictures!" And that is exactly what it is about, a beautiful snapshot in time of the best gardens and landscaping, then at their peak and not diminished from the economic influences of the great depression. It references the homes, which these gardens adorned, magnificent family dwellings from a period when live-in help was *de rigueur*. There were obviously multiple gardeners on staff to water, trim, weed, and otherwise maintain meticulous outdoor gardens, pools, and living areas. The styles and historical references of the individual gardens are varied, some almost fantastic, and the plant palettes are as diverse as the settings.

San Diego's own landscape historian, Carol Greentree, who has penned the insightful new introduction, tributes the book's value in the fourth dimension of fine garden design: *time*. It is indeed, "a visual summation of what mattered, a full lifetime ago, in the gardens of the golden state."

Whether you design and work on your own garden alone, use occasional help, or work with a qualified landscape professional, *California Gardens* is a guide to the possibilities, however extreme, in our wonderful climate. The elements are not unique, landscapers of this era borrowed extensively from other cultures and design periods, often molding concepts to new perceptions. It is in these images that we see design and style developments subsequently interpreted in more modest homes utilizing similar planting material and design.

This reprint is in limited edition, available from the publisher at (800)777-7623 or by special order from your favorite bookstore.

*Reviewed by Lucy Warren*

## A GROWING GARDENER

Abbie Zabar

New York, Universe Publishing, 1996, 112 pages, colored sketches, 7" x 9", hardcover, \$22.50.

This book details the entire year of the author's experiences and thoughts as she gardens on a 21st floor rooftop in Manhattan. Abbie Zabar is an award-winning writer, artist, designer, and gardener. The sketches are excellent, the plant material is scientifically identified, and the experiences she describes are intriguing. It makes one appreciate and better understand rooftop gardens. The book is an interesting read, but of limited practical gardening value for Southern California gardeners.

*Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones*

## CHULA VISTA'S TREES: Immigrants That Came to Stay John Rojas, Jr.

San Diego, Tecolote Publications, 1996, 258 pages, 106 b&w photos and illustrations, 64 color photos, 6" x 9", softcover, \$19.95, casebound \$34.95 plus tax.

Although it is hard to imagine sometimes, without question non-legged immigrants outnumber two- or four-legged ones in California. Ever since the Spanish began colonizing the coast, plants have been consistently introduced to this region, from

edibles to exotics, annuals to long lived perennials. This book is about a special group of plants—non-indigenous trees (and a few natives).

Local author and historian, John Rojas, Jr. first became interested in the trees in his city while researching one of his volumes of *Chula Vista - The Early Years* and happened on a reference of Chula Vista as one of several cities nationwide designated as a "Tree City U.S.A." Learning about the trees and their backgrounds became a passion to which he has applied his multiple skills as author, researcher and photographer to share with others.

Not a horticulture-by-formula book, John put in the kind of information which interested him personally and which he knew would therefore interest others. Each tree has two facing pages. The trees are identified by Latin name and family, common name(s), a line drawing of a typical leaf and a representative photograph. A one-page description details information for each subject including historical, propagative, and identification information. Color photos of interesting details of leaf, bark, berry, or flower of many trees are also included.

If you are thinking about possibly including a new tree in your own landscape, each tree references the location of a specimen in Chula Vista so you can go and see what a mature example looks like.

This book is an excellent introduction to the variety and diversity of trees that grow well in our climate. It is not necessary to live in Chula Vista to appreciate its value, for most of these plants will thrive throughout our region.

John is not a horticulturist by profession, but he worked hard at researching and developing this book, and even took classes in plant identification as preparation. Unfortunately, there are a number of typographical, factual, and identification errors. Plans call for an errata sheet from the author.

This book is available from the author, send a check or money order to John Rojas, Jr. to TREES, P. O. Box 1222, Chula Vista, CA 91912.

*Reviewed by Lucy Warren*

## IN MY FATHER'S GARDEN

**Kim Chernin**

Chapel Hill, NC, Algonquin Books, 1996, 196 pages, 5 1/4" x 7 1/4" hardcover, \$17.95

## GROWING MYSELF

**Judith Handelman**

New York, Dutton, 1996, 192 pages, hardcover, 5 1/4" x 8", \$21.95

Many people find gardening to be a spiritual endeavor, leading to greater understanding of our place in nature and our obligations to others who share our lives here on earth. These two small books both deal with spiritual awakenings and heightened awareness of our selves and our inner growth. Kim Chernin had been raised as a Marxist and it is no wonder that her own spiritual awareness came as a surprise to her. Her father's garden became the metaphor that led her to realize that the small quiet acts of kindness he offered to the world were his greatest legacy. From this understanding Ms. Chernin has developed her philosophy of spiritual politics — the need for all of us to do what we feel compelled to do in offering comfort to others, preserving endangered species, or whatever we each feel we should contribute. These are the small "acts of concern" that

taken together offer salvation for a violent world. Ms. Chernin's book is an insightful and intriguing account of her own spiritual development.

Ms. Handlesman's book, on the other hand, although purporting to be a spiritual journey inspired by gardening, is a considerably less serious offering that includes accounts of the author's conversations with her plants and her belief in fairies. Her book contains a number of excellent and inspiring quotes from other gardeners. Gardeners who have been illuminated by their own deep love of growing and nurturing plants may enjoy these journals of the self-discovery that living with plants can inspire.

*Reviewed by Connie Beck*

## ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY-MANUAL OF ORCHIDS

**Joyce Stewart, Consultant Editor**

Portland, Timber Press, 1995, 448 pages, 107 b&w drawings and/or illustrations, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", hardcover, \$49.95.

To the publishers, "Joyce Stewart is one of the world's foremost authorities on the botany and cultivation of orchids." She has spent more than ten years at Kew Botanic Gardens. She is considered to have much expertise regarding the African orchids, and in fact, is highly regarded in the horticulture field for her knowledge of all orchids.

The manual may be used as a reference book. However, it appeared to me that the material was so well presented that it read as very exciting novel. It was difficult to lay the book down as you wanted to read on and find about the next orchid species she presented.

Joyce furnishes the reader with accurate botanical information that enables one to understand clearly each genus. She also gives us successful guidelines that will enable us to grow these True Beauties.

Orchids and orchid growing have become a worldwide mass marketing venue in just the last couple of years. A book such as this, is a teaching aid to help us in preserving these Royal Beauties.

*Reviewed by Ardell O. Marlin*

For those with particular plant interests, Timber Press has published several unusually good speciality books. They all include information on history, cultivation and propagation, are published in hardcover with forty to seventy color photos.

**EUPHORBIAS** by Roger Turner includes a detailed description of over eighty species, (\$29.95).

**HYDRANGEAS** by Toni Lawson-Hall and Brian Rothera describes thirteen species and sixty cultivars including color photos and half-life-size reproductions of actual leaves and sepals, (\$34.95).

**SIBERIAN IRIS** by Currier McEwen, an important hybridizer of these irises, writes for the beginner as well as the experienced grower. All the listings on where to see Siberian irises on the west coast are in Washington or Oregon, (\$39.95).

**GARDENER'S GUIDE TO GROWING HOSTAS** by Diana Grenfell lists over four hundred cultivars and forms in a A-Z directory. The majority of the seventy-four color photos are details of the leaves, with few flowers pictured.

*Reviewed by R. Cox*

# SYCAMORE AND LONDON PLANE TREE PEST MANAGEMENT

by CYNTHIA DRAKE

## Diseases

The foliar diseases that will be discussed will disfigure and kill leaves, but are not lethal to the tree. These trees are subject to fungi that can invade branch and trunk tissues, which results in sap and heart rot. The root system can be damaged or killed from several root rot organisms. All these disease organisms work to weaken the tree.

**ANTHRACNOSE** (*Discula veneta*) A fungus that damages the leaf, bud, petiole, emerging shoot, and branches. The fungus overwinters on fallen leaves and branch cankers. Ascospores are released from the perithecia in the cankers prior to bud break. Leaves that are infected with the spores turn brown and die back. This results in an early summer defoliation and releaf that can be devitalizing to the tree. The fungus requires high humidity to grow and reinfect, therefore wet springs will increase the chance of an outbreak. Eventual dieback of twig, stem, and branch can be expected. Often new branches will grow at odd angles and appear as a heavy mass in the tree.

**LEAF and TWIG BLIGHT** (*Phleospora multamaculans* and *Massari platani*) Both diseases are found on cankers in branches that contribute to leaf spotting and dieback. **LEAF SPOT** (*Stigmella platani-racemosae*) A parasitic leaf spot that causes premature defoliation, (not thought to be important).

**POWDERY MILDEW** (*Microsphaera alni*) This obligate parasitic fungus can develop only on living tissue. Once spores land on a leaf they send out a mat of thread-like runners called hyphae. The web of hyphae or mycelium resembles a powdery white mat, hence the name powdery mildew. The disease overwinters on dead leaves in a stage known as the cleistothecia. The disease generally prefers moderate temperatures and shade, and growth is retarded by rain

and hot sunlight. The damage occurs when the fungus sends feeding tubes or haustoria into the leaves for nourishment. This feeding distorts and stunts the leaves.

## WOOD, ROOT, AND CROWN ROT

Although not as common in sycamores and plane trees as in other shade trees, root rots can occur. Once the health of the root system is undermined by these pathogens, serious consideration should be made as to whether the tree is a potential hazard. Trees with branch and trunk decay can become a serious hazard in high winds, floods, and other conditions.

**ROOT & CROWN ROT** (*Phytophthora* spp.) This disease kills the roots and crown of infected plants. Symptoms in the canopy of the tree may include a gradual decline, leaves prematurely dropping and being off color, branch and twig die back; eventually the entire tree may die. The fungus infects the root and crown tissue giving it a brown stained appearance. The trunk may have bleeding cankers where sap has streaked the bark. Typically this disease requires high soil moisture and warm weather to invade tissues. Avoid irrigation practices that wet the trunk and planting water-loving plants near the base of the tree.

**ARMILLARIA ROOT ROT** (*Armillaria mellea*) Not usually a problem with sycamores, however if this disease is in the soil it may present a problem. If you remove dead plants from the landscape that have white mycelial plaques under the bark, have them examined by the county agricultural department. If the lab results are positive for this disease, consider having the soil treated prior to replanting.

**CANKER STAIN** (*Ceratocystis fimbriata*) This uncommon disease is found on the east coast and in the San Joaquin Valley of California. It is

generally spread by contaminated soil and tools. The tree will exhibit small leaves and will rapidly decline until it dies. The fungus stains the wood as it invades the tissues. This disease gains entry through pruning wound, lawn mower, and weed eater damage, and beetles. Prune only in the winter to avoid possible spread.

## OTHER WOOD-ROTTING ORGANISMS (*Fomes* spp., *Daedalea* spp., *Polyporus* spp., and *Sternula* spp.)

As with other shade trees, fungi can invade pruning or mechanical wounds to feed upon live or dead tissues. In most cases, pruning wounds or other mechanical injuries are the route of infection. Avoid unprofessional pruning practices such as flush cuts, topping, and stubs. Protect the health of the bark by not using climbing spikes, overthinning (causing sunburn), and chain saw nicks.

## Insect and mite pests

Most of the insect pests found on sycamores and London plane trees damage the leaves, branches and bark. If the trees are young or newly planted, chemical treatments may be necessary to keep them actively growing. Once these trees become mature, treatments are not recommended unless damage is severe.

**SYCAMORE SCALE** (*Stomacoccus platani*) If scale damage is a concern, select the European sycamore (*Platanus orientalis*), and avoid the London plane tree (*P. acerifolia*) as it is the most susceptible. This is a multi-generational scale. Eggs and nymphs overwinter under the bark plates and are easily seen in early spring. Females lay up to one hundred eggs in cottony masses that protrude from the bark plates. In February, as the buds begin to break, immatures emerge and move onto the foliage. As they mature they move back to the trunk and limbs to produce the second generation, this is usually April-May.

Leaves and petioles are spotted by the toxins in the scale's saliva during feeding, and eventually prematurely drop from the tree.

**SYCAMORE SPIDER MITE** (*Oligonychus platani*) This mite produces between ten to twelve generations a year. Mites overwinter on vegetation below the tree once the leaves fall. The damage comes from the mites feeding on the upper surface of the leaf, extracting chlorophyll from the palisade cells. This mite is green to black in appearance. The feeding can turn the leaves a rusty-brown color followed by premature defoliation.

**LEAF MINERS** (*Lithocolletis feinell* and *Profenusa plananae*) These leaf miners are wasp and moth larvae that feed on the spongylomesophyll layers of the leaf leaving a hollow area between the upper and lower leaf surfaces. As the larvae feed, they leave behind brown patches on the leaf filled with their excrement. Leaf miners are not considered a serious pest.

**S Y C A M O R E   L E A F SKELETONIZER** (*Gelechia desiliens*) Look for this moth caterpillar in a silken tube under the leaf where it feeds from March through May. As it matures it feeds on the entire leaf leaving large ragged holes. It drops from the leaf in summer, crawls up the trunk, and pupates in a cocoon under the bark.

**WESTERN SYCAMORE BORER** (*Synanthedon resplendens*) There is one generation a year with adults emerging May through July. Pupal cases can be seen protruding through the bark. The adult clear-wing moth resembles a yellow jacket wasp. Eggs are laid on the bark and the larvae tunnel and feed on the inner bark and cambial layer. During the feeding the larvae push out large amounts of red frass that accumulates on the ground and in bark crevices. Normally, the feeding does not harm the tree, instead it causes the otherwise smooth bark to roughen and turn brown.

**WESTERN SYCAMORE LACE BUG** (*Corythucha confraterna*) One of the most beautiful insects, seen under a hand lens, it appears to be wearing a mantle of lace. As with the azalea lace

bug, the adults feeding on the foliage leave black tarry spots of excrement to mar the lower leaf surface. Feeding results in a stippled or bronzed leaf color. Eggs are inserted into the leaf and young feed with adults in groups. This is a multi-generational pest. Adults overwinter under the bark.

**O Y S T E R S H E L L   S C A L E** (*Lepidosaphes ulmi*) This scale is commonly found on several trees and shrubs throughout California. There are two generations a year in Southern California, only one generation in northern California. The adult scale female is grey to dark brown and resembles an oyster shell in appearance. Eggs overwinter under the mature female scale's shell. Crawlers emerge in the spring at bud break and wander around on the branch before settling down. Heavy concentrations of scale can kill a branch due to the toxins in their saliva. The scale prefers the wood of one to three year old branches.

#### Other

**MISTLETOE** (*Phoradendron serotinum*) A semi-parasitic green plant manufacturing its own food but depending on the host plant to supply water and nutrients for survival. The sticky pulp seeds are disseminated by birds. Although the seeds can germinate anywhere, the plant can only penetrate the young tender bark by means of a feeding tube. Some plants have survived as long as fifty years on a branch without killing it.

**OCCASIONAL VERTEBRATE PESTS**, such as gophers, ground squirrels, deer, and birds, damage or kill young trees. Monitor and control as needed.

#### PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

##### Integrated pest management

Young trees need careful supervision if they are to mature into attractive older trees. Older trees weathering many years of disease or insect attacks may not require pest control treatments unless they are showing signs of decline or stress. Most insect and disease pests of sycamores and plane trees cause aesthetic damage only, and rarely injure or kill the tree.

#### CAUTION

Some individuals are sensitive to **DACONIL**. Avoid contact and inhalation. Most pesticides are toxic to fish, birds, and wildlife. ALWAYS read the label before, during, and after an application.

#### DISCLAIMER

The pest control measures listed are to be used as guidelines only. Check with your chemical supplier for labels, MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) proclamations and updated information on Worker Protection Standard instructions. This information may not be substituted for written pest control recommendations. San Diego Floral Association and Cynthia Drake make no guarantees as to the effectiveness of products listed, nor do we endorse these products or discredit products not listed. For professional help for badly damaged trees consult a Certified Arborist.

IPM strategies encourage the use of least toxic measures for the best results.

- Learn to tolerate the damage. Educate others concerning the alternatives to chemical treatments. Treat only if there is a need.

- Use disease and insect resistant species and cultivars.

- Select a tree other than sycamore or plane tree, such as *Liquidambar*.

- Sanitation is important. Clean up leaves, prune dead branches, and remove cankered branches from the tree.

- Use proper professional pruning methods.

- Use the least toxic materials first, such as narrow range oils, insecticidal soaps, and *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*).

- Monitor and apply chemical treatments at the time during the insect's life cycle that would be most effective (scale crawlers vs adults).

- For fungus control avoid excessive irrigation, high atmospheric moisture

from irrigation, and shading of the branches.

- Make sure that the trunk and root system have good drainage.
- Monitor soil fertility and salt concentrations. Apply fertilizers only as needed, and then only once or twice a year.

#### IPM SPRAY AND CARE PROGRAM

Scale	Jan. & Feb.—Dormant oil & insecticidal soap combination. Apply again through the year for new generations. Monitor with double sticky tape traps.
Anthracnose	Bud Break—Only if it's a wet spring use Daconil Ultres, tolerate damage, and prune infected branches in winter.
Skeletonizer	March-May—Bt sprays if needed, tolerate the damage.
Borer	May-July—Bt sprays if needed, tolerate the damage.
Mites	March-Oct—Narrow range oil sprays, monitor, predacious mites.
Lace bugs	June-Oct.—Insecticidal soaps, tolerate the damage.
Mildew	June-Oct.—Keep humidity low, tolerate the damage.

Fertilize the trees as needed in April and September.

Prune dead or cankered branches in the winter (December through January).

#### CONVENTIONAL SPRAY AND CARE PROGRAM

A dramatic difference in the appearance of the tree can be made with a conventional spray program. This must be weighed against the cost, the effectiveness, environmental impacts, and practicality/logistics of spraying a large tree with chemical controls. Even with the best timing, application technique, and chemicals available, disease and insect infestations can occur. Chemical

treatments may be required where IPM measures have failed to achieve the level of control desired, or where a stressed or young tree cannot tolerate additional damage. Always monitor the pest level prior to spraying, spray when drift is minimal, and spray for good coverage. CAUTION—some individuals are sensitive to Daconil. Avoid contact and inhalation. Most pesticides are toxic to fish, birds, and wildlife. ALWAYS read the label before, during, and after an application.

#### CONVENTIONAL SPRAY PROGRAM

Scale	(Jan-Feb)—Dormant oil / Diazinon combo., Merit
Anthracnose	(Bud Break)—Daconil Ultrex, Champion, Cleary's 3336, Scotts Fungo 50
Skeletonizer	(March-April)—Bt, Orthene, & Seven, if needed
Borer	(May-July) Bt, Dursban, if needed
Mites	(March-Oct)—Kelthane, Dursban, Morestan/Tempo combo
Lace bugs	(Jun-Oct)—Dursban, Merit, if needed
Mildew	(June-Oct)—Bayleton 25
Root Rot	(Phytophthora)—Subdue 2, Aliette WDG, improve cultural care

Fertilize the trees as needed in April and September.

Prune dead or cankered branches in the winter (December through January)

#### DISCLAIMER

The pest control measures listed are to be used as guidelines only. Check with your chemical supplier for labels, MSDS sheets and updated information on Worker Protection Standard instructions. This information may not be substituted for written pest control recommendations. I make no guarantees as to the effectiveness of products listed, nor do I endorse these products or discredit products that are

not listed.—Cynthia Drake, PCA & QAL #04021

Information contained in this report is based on my field experience gained as the owner/operator of Drake Landscape Pest Control and Consulting. As a consulting arborist and P.C.A., I have worked with numerous companies in developing pest management and tree care programs. This report would not be possible without the information from the following sources:

#### REFERENCE MATERIALS:

HORST, R. K.

1979 Wescott's Plant Disease Handbook Fourth Edition

BROWN, L. R. & EADS CO.

1965 A Technical Study of the Insects Affecting the Sycamore Tree in Southern California

#### USDA PUBLICATIONS

1949 The Yearbook of Agriculture: TREES

SHIGO, A. L.

1986 A New Tree Biology

HARRIS, R. W.

1983 Arboriculture

MANION, P.D.

1962 Tree Disease Concepts

TATTAR, T.A.

1978 Diseases of Shade Trees

#### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

1995 Pests of Landscape Trees

and Shrubs, Pub. #3359

I wish to thank those that reviewed and assisted with this paper:

Dr. Alex Shigo Dr. Richard Harris

Dr. David Funk Dr. Art McCaine

Dr. Rob Raabe Dr. Carlton Koehler

Dr. Kim Simms (ret.) (ret.)

Mr. Vincent Lazaneo

Dr. David Kellum

Mr. Bob Bichowsky

Mr. Jack Maloney

Mr. Bob Mazalewski

The staff at TARGET SPECIALTY PRODUCTS. □

Cynthia Drake has twenty years of horticultural experience. She is a California Licensed Pest Control Advisor and Applicator and a Certified Arborist. She is president of Scripps Mesa Garden Club and vice-president of San Diego Chapter of the California Association of Nurserymen.



# SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

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619/232-5762, located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park  
Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

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1997

February 18  
April 15  
June 17  
October 21  
5:45 p.m.

Casa del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park, San Diego

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Chr: Joyce Zwemeke

287-3424 1st Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado,

Jan, May, Sept, Nov

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Pres: Carlette Anderson

445-4569 1st Fri - 10:00 am, Home of Members

#### BERNARDO GARDENERS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Virginia Fackler

451-3923 3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Joslyn Senior Center,

Rancho Bernardo

#### BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Norma Illingworth

479-3478 2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor,

Sweetwater Road

#### BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Thad Craddock

435-4236 4th Monday - 9:30 am, Winn Room,

Coronado Public Library

#### CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Alice Miller

721-6884 1st Fri - 1:00 pm, Sep thru Jun

Heritage Hall, Magee Park

#### CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Theodore Felber

427-3184 3rd Thu - 1:00 pm, Norman Park

Senior Center

#### CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Virginia Soderberg

582-7098 1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Home of Members

#### CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

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435-5028 CROWN GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Suzanne Heap

435-5530 4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

#### DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Sarah Beers

749-2140 2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

#### ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Jerry Doughty

743-1879 FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betty Henry

731-0706 FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB

Chmn: Mrs. Richard A. Burt

299-6742 2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

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2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive,

La Mesa

#### LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Francis S. Blankenship 454-4109

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Pres: Mildred Digennar 443-1529

#### LAS JARDINERAS

Pres: Alicia Elliott

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#### MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Pres: Mr. Patrick Shields 724-3749

4th Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community

College, Horticulture Building #T-700

#### MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB

Pres: Helen Odom 743-1921

3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community

College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)

#### PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Dale S. Munda 272-9727

2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Recreation Center

#### POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Elaine Marshall 223-8708

2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Westminster Presby

Church

#### POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Colleen Michell 485-8170

#### RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mr. Harold Sexton 756-1554

Hort Chrm: Mrs. Carol Streeter

2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Garden Club

#### SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Dorothy Driscoll 463-6700

4th Tue - 9:30 am, Home of Members

#### SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Clara Ziegler 943-8005

4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

#### SCRIPPS MESA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Cindy Drake 271-8933

4th Mon - 6:00 pm, Scripps Ranch Library

#### THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA

Pres: Laura Hoke 390-9908

4th Thu - 10:00 am, Torrey Pines Christian

Church, LJ

#### THE VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betty Larson 727-0731

1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

## IKEBANA SCHOOLS

#### ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Haruko Crawford 660-2046

#### IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119

Pres: Yoshie Sesma 279-2511

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Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 278-5689

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Pres: Connie Davis 672-0128

2nd Tues - 10:00 am

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#### HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Pres: Claire Peck 561-2280  
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Wells Park Ctr, El Cajon

#### SAN DIEGO DAYTIME

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Pres: Pat Goldberg 462-4771  
2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Christ United Methodist Church, 33rd Street and Meade

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#### AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

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Pres. Lit Phan  
1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)  
10:30 am, Casa del Prado

#### SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.

Pres: Lew Buller 576-0515  
2nd Sun - 11:00 am, Casa del Prado

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Pres: Ken Campos  
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Joyce Brehn 277-1030  
3rd Sat - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

#### NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Morlane O'Donnell 422-8168  
4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Eck Building  
*Qual Gardens*

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#### PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Pres: Ronald A. Chisum 753-3651  
4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido

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2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

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3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### DAHLIA

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#### EPIPHYLLUM

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3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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2nd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

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1st Sat - 10:00 am, Quail Gardens

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Jun/Aug/Nov - Joslyn Sr Ctr, Rancho Bernardo

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1st Mon - Casa del Prado

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Pres: Cindy Burrascano 685-7321  
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

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4th Mon - 2:00 pm - 16789 Bernardo Oaks Dr.,  
Seven Oaks Community Center, RB

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#### CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

#### SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH

Pres: Ardell Marlin 753-6952  
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club

#### SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Fred Weber 583-3992  
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### ORGANIC

#### BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Suzanne M. Mathews 426-3936  
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

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#### THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Pres: Phil Bergman 291-4605  
Please call for Meeting dates

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#### EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

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1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members

#### SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

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#### PEOPLE FOR TREES

Pres: Tom Story 234-TREE  
FAX 687-0151

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Contact: Walter Pagels 582-5408

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

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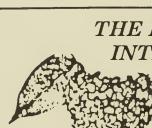
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#### AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates  
Editor *California Garden*, 2125 Park Boulevard, San Diego CA 92101-4792.  
Call 232-5762.

Deadline for Mar-Apr issue: Jan 15, 1997

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free advertisement once each year? It should be "camera ready" (suitable to be sent to printer). The text should be enclosed in a border. The border must be included when measuring dimensions, which are to be 3.6 (3%) wide by 2.25 (2 1/4) inches high. If done on a computer, please use a font that does not resemble typewriting.



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A wine or apple cider reception will be followed by lunch (chicken entree, pie—all prepared on the premises) in the 1905 Beaux Arts style mansion which is representative of life on Pasadena's "Millionaires' Row" in the early 1900s.

After lunch there will be a docent-guided tour of the home with its priceless antiques as well as the sauna house that was constructed during the eighteen-year period when the mansion served as the Finnish Consulate.

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Laura Emrick is a member of the Herb Society of America, The Herb Club and the San Diego Floral Association. Images from the post card series recently won Best of Show, First Place and Honorable Mention in the Herb Society of America's First Annual Photographic Competition.

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### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and zip + 4  
\_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Send to San Diego Floral Assoc., 2125 Park Blvd.,  
San Diego CA 92101-4792

# Is Your Soil Sustainable?

All plants grow in organic matter, *not dirt*. Topsoil without quality organic matter *cannot and will not grow healthy plants*. All wood and manure products are *bad organics* for your soil. Over-use will cause your soil to become compacted and lifeless.

Sustainable Soils contain only *quality organics* from Kelp and Saponin—no wood or manure. *Natural life forms thrive in sustainable soils—so will your plants.*

## Sustainable Soils Will:

- Eliminate need for chemical fertilizers;
- Promote natural creation of nutrients;
- Save water (70-80%!);
- Keep soil from compacting;
- Promote healthy & disease resistant plants;
- Safe for children & pets;
- Reduce maintenance costs;
- Produce food with flavor, texture & nutrition;
- Promote stress resistance to heat/cold, drought, transplant;
- Encourage worm growth;
- Promote larger & deeper root growth;
- Promote stronger stems, reduce wind /rain loss;
- Produce higher yields with longer shelf life.



## *Sustainable Topsoils Are Not Expensive!*

### Call for FREE Information!

- Sustainability Handbook
- American Sustainability Institute Report

619/239-3245 • 800/757-0727



**American Sustainable Soils**

*World Leader in Sustainable Soil Science*